



# THE FLY LEAF

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## THE FLYLEAF

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GEORGE W. WHITING

This issue of the FLYLEAF honors the memory of George W. Whiting, for many years Professor of English at Rice University, eminent Milton scholar and inspiring teacher. The following article was written by Dr. Whiting during his retirement. It is altogether fitting that the FLYLEAF publish this article by Professor Whiting, whose diligent searching after choice items greatly enhanced the seventeenth-century holdings of the Fondren Library. Our readers will also be glad to learn that Professor Whiting's book, Milton's Literary Milieu, is being republished by the University of North Carolina Press. There could be no more suitable memorial to him.

JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY AND MILTON'S POETRY

## A Brief Report

It has not, I think, been put on record that in the famous Dictionary, in which the meanings of words are illustrated by examples from "the Best Writers", Dr. Johnson cited a great many examples from Milton's Poetry. His attitude is indicated by these statements in the Preface: "I have devoted this book, the labour of years, to the honour of my country,... The chief glory of every people arises from its authors... I shall not think my employment useless or ignoble, if by my assistance foreign nations, and distant ages, gain access to the propagators of knowledge, and understand the teachers of truth; if my labours afford light to the repositories of science, and add celebrity to Bacon, to Hooker, to Milton, and to Boyle." Definition 5 of the word agree, "To be of the same mind or opinion," is illustrated by this quotation from Watt's Improvement of the Mind: "Milton is a noble genius, and the world agrees to confess it."

In this brief report I have selected as samples a few words with unusual meanings, illustrated by lines which Johnson cites from Milton's Poetry. Exact references, often lacking in the Dictionary, are supplied. With each word I have added for comparison the definition and illustration, if any, in Webster's New International Dictionary. Excerpts from Johnson's Dictionary are marked J and those from Webster's New International W. I must add that by the generosity of some of my former students I possess a copy of the second edition of the Dictionary (1755), which, unlike Johnson, I consult in the "obscurities of retirement" though in other respects my lot may be no more fortunate than his.

## Abide:

J. 5. "To bear or support the consequences of."

Ah me! they little know

How dearly I abide that boast so vain."

P.L. IV. 86-87.

W. "To stand the consequences of; to answer for; to suffer for." Cites the last line of the preceding quotation.

## Abortive:

J. 3. "That which brings forth nothing."

These pass'd, if any pass, the void profound  
Of unessential night receives him next,

Wide-gaping! and with utter loss of being  
Threatens him, plung'd in that abortive gulf.

P.L. II. 437-441.

W. "Rendering fruitless or ineffectual. Obs."  
Cites the last line of the preceding quotation.

## Abroad:

J. 1. "Without confinement; widely; at large."

Intermit no watch

Against a wakeful foe, while I abroad,

Thro' all the coasts of dark destruction, seek  
Deliverance.

P.L. II. 462-465.

W. "At large; widely; broadly; over a wide space." "The fox roams far abroad." Prior.  
This is the first line of a four-verse quotation in Johnson.

## Abrupt:

J. 2. "Divided, without anything intervening."

Or spread his airy flight,

Upborn with indefatigable wings,

Over the vast abrupt, ere he arrive

The happy isle.

P.L. II. 407-410.

## Abrupt: (Continued)

W. "An abrupt place. Poetic."

Quotes the phrase "Over the vast abrupt."

## Abstracted:

J. 1. "Separated."

That space the evil one abstracted stood  
From his own evil, and for a time remain'd  
Stupidly good. P.L. IX. 463-465.

W. "Separated or disconnected; withdrawn;  
removed; apart." Cites part of lines one  
and two of the preceding quotation.

## Abuse:

J. 4. "Unjust censure, rude reproach, contumely."  
I dark in light, expos'd  
To daily fraud, contempt, abuse, and wrong.  
S.A. 11. 75-76

W. "Vituperative words; coarse, insulting  
speech; abusive language; virulent condemnation;  
reviling."

"The two parties, after exchanging a good deal  
of abuse, came to blows." Macaulay.

## Adverse:

J. 2. "Figuratively, contrary to the wish or  
desire; thence, calamitous; afflictive;  
pernicious. It is opposed to prosperous."  
What if he hath decreed, that I shall first  
Be try'd in humble state, and things adverse,  
By tribulations, injuries, insults,  
Contempts, and scorns, and snares, and violence.  
P.R. III. 188-191.

W. "In hostile opposition; unfavorable; unpropitious; contrary to one's wishes; unfortunate; calamitous; afflictive ..."

"Happy were it for us all if we bore prosperity  
as well and wisely as we endure adverse fortune."  
Southey.

## Advised:

J. 1. "Acting with deliberation and design;  
prudent; wise."

Th' Almighty Father, where he sits  
Shrin'd in his sanctuary of heav'n secure,  
Consulting on the sum of things foreseen,  
This tumult, and permitted all, advis'd.

P.L. VI. 671-674.

W. "Of persons, having considered; hence,  
deliberate; cautious; judicious; determined."  
There is no illustration.

## Aerial:

J. 3. "Inhabiting the air."

Where those immortal shapes  
Of bright aerial spirits live inspher'd,  
In regions mild, of calm and serene air.

Comus, ll. 2-4.

(The Dictionary mistakenly ascribes this  
quotation to Paradise Regained.)

W. "Of or pertaining to the air, or  
atmosphere; inhabiting or frequenting the  
air; produced by or found in the air; ..."  
"Aerial spirits." Milton.

## Aim:

J. 3. "In a figurative sense, a purpose; a  
scheme; an intention; a design."

He trusted to have equall'd the most High,  
If he oppos'd; and with ambitious aim  
Against the throne, and monarchy of God,  
Rais'd impious war. P.L. I. 40-43.

W. "Intention; purpose; design; scheme."  
"How oft ambitious aims are crossed." Pope.

This last example shows Johnson's preference of  
Milton--even over Pope, whom, however, he fre-  
quently cites. Further proof occurs in the following:

Amaranth:

J. 2. "In poetry, it is sometimes an imaginary flower, supposed, according to its name, never to fade."

Immortal amaranth! a flower which  
In paradise, fast by the tree of life, once  
Began to bloom; but soon, for man's offence,  
To heav'n remov'd, where first it grew, there  
grows,  
And flow'rs aloft, shading the fount of life;  
And where the river of bliss, thro' midst of  
heav'n,  
Rowls o'er Elysian flow'rs her amber stream:  
With these, than never fade, the spirits elect  
Bind their resplendent locks, inwreath'd with  
beams. P.L. III. 253-261.

W. "An imaginary flower supposed never to  
fade. Poetic." No quotation.

It is obvious that Johnson liked to quote Milton.

With two more words I conclude this preliminary report.

Astound:

J. "To astonish; to confound with fear or wonder. The word is now somewhat obsolete."

These thoughts may startle well, but not  
astound

The virtuous mind, that ever walks attended  
By a strong siding champion, conscience.

Comus, ll. 210-212.

(The Dictionary ascribes these lines also to  
Paradise Regained.)

W. "To astonish; to strike with amazement; to  
confound with wonder, surprise, or fear."  
The first part of the preceding passage is  
quoted.



## Attendance:

J. 3. "The persons waiting; a train."

Attendance none shall need, nor train, where none  
Are to behold the judgment, but the judg'd,  
Those two. P.L. X. 80-82.

W. "The persons attending; a retinue; attendants."  
"If your stray attendance be yet lodged." Milton.

This last verse, which is of course from Comus, is one of the comparatively infrequent instances where Webster's New International in quoting Milton's poetry did not follow Johnson's lead. Frequently, of course, instead of citing Milton the New International quotes later authors, Pope, Prior, Southey, Macaulay, and so on. This wider reference is no doubt praiseworthy -- but it is sharply in contrast with Johnson's practice, as may be illustrated by one more example:

## Annoy:

J. "To incommode; to vex; to teaze; to molest."  
As one who long in populous city pent,  
Where houses thick, and sewers annoy the air,  
Forth issuing on a summer's morn to breathe  
Among the pleasant villages, and farms  
Adjoin'd, from each thing met conceives delight.  
P.L. IX. 445-449.

Here the New International has no illustration of the definition "to weary or trouble; to irk, to offend," which is marked obsolete. It is obvious that Dr. Johnson liked to quote from Milton's poetry, -- it may be said, beyond the call of duty or the number of lines strictly necessary for illustration. Later I hope to demonstrate this point at some length.

George W. Whiting  
Late Professor of English  
Rice University

## RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

## AND THE MODERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

III. RELATIONSHIPS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY  
TO INDUSTRY AND TO OTHER LIBRARIES

It is fairly obvious, I think, that the university library has relationships with the community in which it is located, relationships that sometimes seem to touch quite indirectly on its primary role of serving the needs of its own faculty and student body. In small university towns the university library may have nearly the total responsibility for providing complete library service to school children, high school students, and the entire adult population. In some urban areas the libraries of research universities provide so much help to business and industry that the library may seem to be losing its identity. If neither of these is entirely the usual situation, it is the case as least that most university libraries provide some measure of reference service and some level of book lending to townspeople and local industry. Geographical location, the closeness of the university library to the public, special, and other academic libraries (as well as the adequacy of these libraries) will determine how much service the community expects of and receives from the university library. It is from the community in which it is located that the urban university receives many of its students and into which it places many of its graduates. Nowadays, there will usually be a certain level of industrial or governmental research and development in the community that takes up some of the time and much of the talent and energies of many faculty members and graduate students as well as the resources of the university library. This is the case in Houston; it certainly is the case at large eastern and midwestern universities.

Since the local situation is what we know best, and since it includes many of the points of contact with industry and other libraries that are similar to those of other university libraries in this and other communities, let us look to it for our examples, the problems, the opportunities, and for signs of change and development.

Rice has had a library from almost the beginning of its active life. Since a high percentage of Rice students have come from the immediate area for so long a time, the result has been that Rice alumni, present in considerable numbers in local business, have turned back to Rice's growing research library and introduced their non-alumni friends to it. Ours was the only library of its kind available within a fairly wide radius that these persons could turn to with confidence to satisfy literary, scientific, and artistic interests. These persons found reason to appreciate the treasures of a growing university library under the guidance of an influential, community-conscious faculty and administration and under the competent library service given by Miss Alice Crowell Dean, our first librarian, and her able assistants. It is not unusual for those of us on the library staff today who have occasion to meet former students in any numbers and other long-term residents of the city to hear tales of days spent as student assistants in the library or of the valuable aid gained for professional and research projects from the library of the Rice Institute. In 1927, before the founding of our sister institutions, the University of Houston, the University of Saint Thomas, and Texas Southern University, President Lovett aptly stated Rice's relationship to the community in saying "Rice touches life at more points than does any other enterprise, public or private, in Houston. It contributes daily to every stream of life in the city. It carries the name of the city to the high places of the planet." Miss Dean, always devoted to Rice and always keenly

interested in service, never failed to welcome the serious alumnus, professional man, or researcher from the city and the region, thereby doing her part in making this statement of President Lovett's both possible and true.

Still, service to business and industry on any large scale was very much a thing of the future in the 1920's and 1930's. That Texas ranked first in the nation in oil production in 1928, and in oil refining in 1930 does not seem to have occasioned any need for considerable use of the university library's collections by industry as such. Of course, the research and development divisions of the petroleum industry were not in Houston, and other industries that are familiar and important on the local scene today either were not here at all or only were in the early stages of development.

The situation changed with the coming of World War II. To be sure, the war postponed the construction of the fine building in which we are meeting tonight, but it did stimulate the growth of the petrochemical industry to mammoth proportions. We learn from the Chamber of Commerce figures that the Texas Gulf Coast produces 50 per cent of the nation's synthetic rubber, about 60 per cent of the nation's polyethalene, and huge amounts of plastics intermediates and organic chemicals. Tremendous encouragement was given during the war years to the use of library facilities for research and development. Mr. C. H. Brown, librarian of Iowa State College and the 1941 President of the American Library Association, wrote at this time, "Obviously some research departments do not know of the material available in the nearby libraries, especially periodical files. They should be informed. Some of them have had unfortunate experiences in attempting to obtain material from libraries. The present opportunity is a most excellent one for bringing the libraries and the faculties of our universities into contact with the

research departments of industries. The university library can well be the connecting link." This statement could hardly have set the stage better for the use of libraries in our war-time, post-war, cold-war race for technological advancement.

It happens that the age of our university and its library is approximately that of the Special Libraries Association, which was formed in New York state in recognition of the need for information and services, or for "putting knowledge to work," as the Association states in its motto. It is interesting to note that in 1949, there were enough members of this national library association working in small, growing, special libraries in this area, libraries that started during but mostly after World War II, (Dow Chemical Company, Freeport; Humble Oil Co., Houston and Baytown; Pan American Refining Co., Texas City; etc.) to organize themselves and to petition for the acceptance and formation of a Texas Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. The first message of the first president of this Chapter serves to give us an understanding and appreciation of what was happening:

"...it is an interesting reflection on the trend of the times that industry in Texas is recognizing the need of libraries to a greater extent than ever before. The land of long-horn cattle and wildcat oil has reached the stage in its development where it is vitally concerned with the latest scientific discoveries, ranging all the way from animal husbandry to marine exploration for oil on the continental shelf. As a result of this development, ways and means are sought for putting knowledge to work, and we find that there is a decided increase in the number of small specialized libraries

established to acquire, organize, evaluate, and coordinate masses of information and to adapt it to the needs of business and professional men."

The cooperation of the local university libraries with special libraries and with this group of librarians has been of importance from the beginning. The first meeting of the Texas Chapter was held in this room on September 10, 1949, not long after the building was opened. The Science Librarians of the Fondren and of the M. D. Anderson Library of the University of Houston customarily belong to the group and are part of its effort to interpret and to put order into the still rapidly expanding area of interest in and demand for scientific and technical information. The opening of the Science/Technology Division of the new Fondren Library was described in our own Institute literature as standing "ready for use at the heart of a great region which is now witnessing an unprecedented expansion in all basic industries. The opening of the new library will make Rice's present holdings more readily available than ever before to technologists and industrialists of this area." It was assumed from the beginning that the Fondren would accept an increasingly wider responsibility to serve the entire community, especially the scientific and technical community, and that the service thus provided would challenge the library to develop and offer more rapid and efficient service than was usual in the conventional, pre-war university library. The community would, in turn, find good reason to continue to support the university. Our strength, built up so carefully over many years, was great enough in 1952 that the Institute was pleased to say in an invitation sent to selected industrialists: "The Southwest's largest science/technology research library...is helping to celebrate Texas Industrial Week...The Rice Library

with its over seven hundred current science-technology journals and periodicals and its thousands of bound volumes of older important research journals in both pure and applied sciences helps make Houston one of the outstanding industrial research centers in the South. The Rice library thus augments the more specialized collections in the many industrial libraries in this area." I think it only normal, good, and natural that a strong asset like a well-equipped scientific library should have been used and recognized as a community asset. We sincerely wished to share our considerable store of literature and information to bring gifts and endowment funds for such worthwhile goals as 1) additional faculty, 2) expansion of research, 3) further development of the library, especially in the humanities, and 4) the establishment of more scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students.

It is not for me to dwell on this area of financial support of the university and its library. I shall simply note and relate the developments in the 50's and 60's of the relationships of our library and those of our sister institution, the University of Houston, with industrial and research libraries in Houston. That handful of fledgling industrial libraries of 1949 has become a respected wing of more than 50 libraries. These libraries, generally speaking, do not have the space for large retrospective files in their fields of interest nor for materials in related fields. They do not have the opportunity to own the files of the great national bibliographies or the specialized bibliographical aids and reference works that are required and essential in our university libraries. We share these resources with industry. We make available through inter-library loan and in photocopy increasingly large amounts of our materials. In 1956 the Fondren accepted financial aid from local industry to publish Scientific and Technical Periodicals Available in the Rice Institute Library, a publication designed to give industry exact information on our holdings in this area.

At the urging of industry both major universities accepted further financial assistance in 1960 so that the same information might be readily available in convenient, published form for their collections that had grown and changed in the six intervening years. This list was so well received, it so ably demonstrated the usefulness of such cooperative efforts that a far more ambitious cooperative project was planned and undertaken almost immediately, the Houston list of Scientific and Technical Serial Publications.

This list contains the same kind of information for 50 industrial, institutional, and academic libraries in the Houston area. This is the work of a committee of local academic and industrial librarians who interested a farsighted Houston publisher in their plan. Rice is currently receiving approximately 2700 scientific and technical serial titles and the list reveals files for over 8000 such titles in the Houston area. We see, therein, further evidence of the growth of research literature resources outside of the university libraries and a hint of the interdependence that is becoming the rule of the day among all these libraries in the exacting effort to keep up with the rapidly increasing demands of teaching and research in the nation's sixth city and second port which is now becoming the center for important governmental research in space science.

Since the presence and availability of strong working collections of research materials are as important to this kind of community as natural resources, basic industries, transportation and utilities, and expanding markets, it seems to me that we are on the threshold of a new period. Henceforth, the role of the university libraries must be new, characterized less by the ability to have all and be all than by fuller cooperation with larger community efforts to organize and coordinate existing resources into a program that will help the universities as well as industry.



No one library is now strong enough to be both self-sufficient and prepared to meet the demands of the industrial community. The total strength of all our local libraries is not sufficient for it. The Royal Society of London recorded only 1555 scientific journals for the whole of the 19th century; for less than half of the 20th century the World List of Scientific Periodicals gives over 50,000 titles. In 1880, in the field of medicine, approximately 20,000 articles appeared in some 800 medical journals; the figures today represent an almost ten-fold multiplication, with some 200,000 articles appearing in over 7,000 medical journals. The last Decennial Index to Chemical Abstracts ran to 19 encyclopedic volumes, three times the size of that of the preceding decade. Materials from abroad, already swelled by the growth of Soviet research, will be taking on more rapid expansion with the awakening of scientific effort in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. There are numerous other examples. It is not practically possible to have readily available in this city a major portion of the world's current output of scientific and technical literature alone while attempting at the same time to develop the strong collections we require in order to do a first-class job in graduate-level teaching and research in the humanities.

The university library looks to evaluating its own strengths and weaknesses for the on-campus teaching and research roles of the present and predictable future according to the goals set by its administration. It continues to look to friends and associates, and to supporters everywhere, to assist it in meeting its obligations. It may have to tighten its lending regulations and make more business-like charges for the use of expensively maintained reference services and reproduction facilities, but it does so only in the interest of good service. It will be seeking for ways to cooperate with sister university libraries and related industrial libraries,

too, in refraining from unnecessary duplication of expensive back files of journals, and in realistic coordination in the purchasing, lending, and housing of the growing number of increasingly expensive books and periodicals. It is already difficult to make the point to some that Rice, once thought to have "everything," obtained more materials for the use of its faculty and graduate students last year from great out-of-town research libraries like that at Princeton than Rice was called upon to lend to out-of-town libraries anywhere. It may be both selfish and enlightened to look to this area of cooperative purchasing, lending, and housing to increase our strength for the long haul ahead in this city, for this seems to provide one important way to bring in more of the best and most-in-demand materials in both the humanities and science/technology. I hope that we will not fail to study this possibility early and carefully.

The university library has every reason to devote some of the time and talent of its staff to the production and dissemination of other and ever more useful union catalogs and lists on the national, regional, and local levels; to the study of ways selectively to retire books from its collections; to cooperating with the establishment of regional bibliographical and inter-library centers; to programs of education and training for its own staff and for those in industrial libraries who, all too frequently, have not the preparation and training to make their relationships and associations with and their approach to university libraries intelligent, orderly, and productive.

Let us not, however, come to a conclusion thinking so much of the present problems and future challenges that we forget the tremendous, measurable progress that has been ours in the relationships between the university libraries and industrial libraries and other libraries in this area.

It is noted in the Archives of the Texas Chapter of the Special Libraries Association that when this pioneer group first met here at Rice in September, 1949, Dr. Dix gave "a brief outline of the ways in which the library can help the research library and personnel of the Southwest..." and that he "expressed the hope that in the future industry may be able to cooperate with the library..." This has happened, Dr. Dix. The industrial libraries that have for so long a time been dependent on the university libraries for literature support can point to several ways in which they have come substantially to our aid. They have turned what looked at one time like a one-way street into a broad two-way highway.

Richard L. O'Keeffe, Assistant Librarian  
Rice University

(This is the third of four papers presented in a panel discussion on the subject of research requirements and the university library, at the Fondren, 19 February, 1963, as a part of Rice's semi-centennial celebration.)

## BOOKS

The Fondren Library has been fortunate in receiving an unusually large number of gifts of books during the last few months. Since these collections were unsolicited, they naturally contained a considerable number of duplicates which were not immediately needed, as well as juveniles and other works not suitable for an academic and research library. All the donors have shown a most helpful and understanding attitude in not attaching any strings to their gifts and in permitting the Library to dispose of duplicates and other unneeded items by sale or exchange.

Exclusive of a number of government documents, pamphlets and other miscellaneous material, the statistics are as follows:

Books handled, checked, compared etc.	2825
Books added to Fondren	745
Books sent to Physics Library (the Claude Heaps Reading Room)	226
Books sent to S.M.U.	134
Books left for sale or exchange	1720

The collections making up these totals were received from the following donors and sources:

From the estate of the late Mrs. J. M. Cary, 423 volumes, fiction and non-fiction.

From Professor Hardin Craig, Sr., 126 volumes in English Literature.

From Mr. W. Roy Davis, 18 volumes on business administration.

From the library of the late Mrs. Roberta P. Dwyer, 502 volumes, both fiction and non-fiction, of which almost all were added or given to the S.M.U. Library.

From Mrs. James Heyl, 94 volumes, including a complete set of the first 20 years of the Bureau of Ethnology publications--a set already owned by the Library, but valuable for exchange.

From Mr. Walter Loeb, in memory of Douglas Loeb and in honor of Michael Loeb, 34 German works and publications on business administration.

From Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nevill, 246 volumes, including the famous 11th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, a set already owned by the Fondren but useful in a second reference area maintained by the Library.

From Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Schumacher, 131 volumes, of which more than half were added to the collection.

From Mrs. Wharton Weems, 71 volumes, including a number of desirable Civil War items, this being one of Fondren's areas of specialization.

From Professor and Mrs. Harold Wilson, 420 volumes, including a number of works in Physics, some of which were cataloged and others sent to the Heaps Reading Room.

In addition, the last part of the magnificent Lovett collection, previously mentioned in the Flyleaf, was processed and in part added to the Library, a total of 760 volumes.

The Librarian expresses the thanks of the faculty and students of Rice University to these donors who generously gave to the Fondren Library.

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Honoring Sarah L. Lane is a gift from the Sarah Lane Literary Society Alumnae.

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